

AVERP2514USA

**TITLE: DIRECTIONALLY PEELABLE CLOSURES AND
ARTICLES USING THE SAME**

Abstract

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This invention relates a closure with a directionally peelable opening feature for articles comprising first and second layer of different polymeric films, wherein each layer has an upper and lower surface, the upper surface of the first layer is peelably attached to the lower surface of the second layer at a separation interface, provided that when the closure is used to secure an article, at least one portion of the surface and of the upper surface of the first layer or the lower surface of the second layer is not attached to the container. The invention also relates to a container sealed with the directionally peelable closure. The closure provides a means for providing a strong sealing closure that is directionally peelable requiring little effort. In another aspect the invention provides a means for using a container more than once.

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In another aspect the invention provides a non-destructible opening feature for the container. This allows the container to be reused multiple times reducing overall packaging costs and providing environmental benefits. Key to this invention is that the incremental cost of achieving this reusability feature over the cost of a one use container is low. This is important because the cost of adding this feature to all packages must be balanced against the savings in total packaging costs when a consumer uses the container a second time. It is important to note that consumer second use of containers is voluntary and will not be 100%. The lower this incremental cost is the lower the % of voluntary package reuse by consumers can be. Historically in the U.S. overnight couriers have provided these envelopes, boxes, etc. free of charge to their customers.

In another aspect the invention is self contained relative to its easy open feature. The tight registration of the pressure sensitive coating is accomplished

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when the tape is manufactured. As a result of this the registration for dispensing the tape onto the box or envelope is not critical. Additionally, the number of tapes being dispensed is reduced because the tear tape is eliminated. This makes it more commercially feasible to dispense the tape in line with other manufacturing operations in container manufacturing.

In another aspect, the invention provides tamper evident and non resealable closure for packages. The inherently separable interface used in this invention cannot be reclosed once it is opened. The individual film layers can be pigmented etc. to further provide visible tamper evidency.

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